

In the Claims

In this Response Claims 1, 3, 4, 23-25 and 28 have been amended. New Claims 33-47 have been added.

1. (currently amended) An implantable prosthesis, comprising:
a body structure having an outer surface for contacting a surface of a lumen;
a ~~groove~~plurality of grooves disposed on said outer surface of said body structure; and
a continuous string having a therapeutic substance ~~disposed in said groove, said string~~
traversing at least two grooves, wherein said string is capable of being wound around said body structure.
2. (canceled).
3. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein a depth of said ~~groove~~grooves is equal to about 10% to 90% of a thickness of said body structure.
4. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein a depth of said ~~groove~~grooves is not greater than about 65% of a thickness of said body structure.
5. (canceled).
6. (canceled).
7. (canceled).
8. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said string is made from a polymer material.
9. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said therapeutic substance comprises a substance selected from the group consisting of antineoplastic, antiplatelet, anticoagulant, fibrinolytic, antimetabolic, thrombin inhibitor, antiinflammatory, and antiproliferative agents.

10. (original) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said therapeutic substance comprises a radioactive isotope.
11. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, further comprising a barrier disposed on said outer surface of said body structure and on said string to reduce the rate at which said therapeutic substance is released.
- 12-20. (canceled).
21. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said body structure is a radially expandable tubular structure.
22. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said body structure includes arm elements joined by connecting elements.
23. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, additionally including an adhesive material capable of bonding said string in said ~~groove~~grooves.
24. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein the thickness of said string is generally equivalent to a width of said ~~groove~~grooves so as to provide a tight fit between said string and said ~~groove~~grooves.
25. (currently amended) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein the thickness of said string is generally equivalent to the depth of said ~~groove~~grooves such that said string does not protrude out from said ~~groove~~grooves.
26. (canceled).
27. (previously presented) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 1, wherein said string is a monofilament.
28. (currently amended) An implantable prosthesis, comprising:
a radially expandable tubular body structure; and
a string having a therapeutic substance, wherein said string is capable of being wrapped

about said body structure ~~to be~~ so that said string is supported by said body structure and wherein said string is exclusively wrapped about the outer circumference of said body structure for delivery of said therapeutic substance to a vessel lumen.

29. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 28, wherein said string is made at least in part from a polymeric material.

30. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 28, wherein said string is a filament.

31. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 28, wherein said string is an extruded filament.

32. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 28, further comprising:
an adhesive material disposed on said body structure or on said filament or both.

Please insert the following New Claims:

33. (new) An implantable prosthesis, comprising;
a body structure including support elements separated by gaps;
grooves disposed in said support elements; and
a string strong enough to be circumferentially wrapped exclusively around the outer perimeter of said body structure, said string being disposed in said grooves of at least some of said support elements such that said grooves act as guides for allowing said string to be circumferentially supported by said body structure, and wherein said string extends across said gaps between said support elements when circumferentially supported by said body structure.

34. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein a depth of said grooves is equal to about 10% to 90% of a thickness of said support elements.

35. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein a depth of said grooves is not greater than about 65% of a thickness of said support elements.

36. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein said string is made from a

polymer material.

37. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein said string includes a therapeutic substance.

38. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 37, wherein said therapeutic substance comprises a substance selected from the group consisting of antineoplastic, antiplatelet, anticoagulant, fibrinolytic, antimetabolic, thrombin inhibitor, antiinflammatory, and antiproliferative agents.

39. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 37, wherein said therapeutic substance comprises a radioactive isotope.

40. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 37, further comprising a barrier disposed on an outer surface of said body structure and on said string to reduce the rate at which said therapeutic substance is released.

41. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein said body structure is a radially expandable tubular structure.

42. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein said support elements are arm elements joined by connecting elements.

43. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, additionally including an adhesive material capable of bonding said string in said grooves.

44. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein the thickness of said string is generally equivalent to a width of said grooves so as to provide a tight fit between said string and said grooves.

45. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein the thickness of said string is generally equivalent to the depth of said grooves such that said string does not protrude out from said grooves.

46. (new) The implantable prosthesis of Claim 33, wherein said string is a monofilament.
47. (new) An implantable prosthesis, comprising;
- a body structure including support elements separated by gaps;
- grooves disposed in said support elements; and
- a continuous string disposed in said grooves of at least some of said support elements
- such that said grooves act as guides for allowing said string to be supported by said body structure, wherein said string extends across said gaps between said support elements when supported by said body structure.